

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 214437

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ARDAY/HLK
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY
S/S -O:AWOTTO
P - MR. HABIB

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O 282146Z AUG 76 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 214437

NODIS
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, US, LE

SUBJECT: ISRAELI ARMS FOR LEBANESE CHRISTIANS

REF: TEL AVIV 5613

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED CONGRESSIONAL LETTERS INQUIRING ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF ISRAEL HAVING TRANSFERRED U.S.-ORIGIN WEAPONS TO THE LEBANESE CHRISTIANS. SOME OF THESE WE CAN DEAL WITH ORALLY AND CONFIDENTIALLY, BUT OTHERS, INVOLVING LETTERS FROM CONSTITUENTS, WILL REQUIRE SOME UNCLASSIFIED ANSWER. WE ALSO ANTICIPATE AT SOME POINT FURTHER PRESS QUERIES ON THE SUBJECT (THERE WAS A LETTER TO THE EDITOR IN THE WASHINGTON POST ON AUGUST 19 FROM THE HEAD OF THE MIDDLE EAST RESOURCES CENTER, RAISING THE SAME QUESTION OF POSSIBLE VIOLATION OF U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION).

2. AS THINGS NOW STAND, WE DO NOT FEEL IN A POSITION TO REFER PUBLICLY TO ALLON'S ASSURANCES THAT ISRAEL IS NOT SUPPLYING AMERICAN WEAPONRY. IT WOULD BE USEFUL, AND PER-SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 214437

HAPS ULTIMATELY ALMOST NECESSARY, TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT

WE HAVE GOTTEN THIS ASSURANCE, HOWEVER. WE RECOGNIZE THAT
TO MAKE THE ASSURANCE PUBLIC COULD CONVEY AN IMPRESSION THAT
ISRAEL WAS PROVIDING OTHER TYPES OF WEAPONS, BUT WE WOULD
SIMPLY HAVE TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THIS WAS NOT INTENDED.

3. YOU SHOULD EXPLAIN OUR PROBLEM TO ALLON, TELLING HIM
WE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO USE THE ASSURANCE PUBLICLY
BUT WOULD OBVIOUSLY NOT WANT TO DO SO WITHOUT HIS AWARENESS
AND AGREEMENT. EAGLEBURGER

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NNN

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